

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the current abstract with the abstract provided on the separate attached page.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 44, 63 and 81 as follows:

44. (Amended) A method of manufacturing articles to be included in cans, comprising:

intermittently feeding a metal strip having an upper surface and a lower surface into an article forming unit; and

providing at least one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the strip with laser engravings from a laser unit when the strip is in an immobilized condition and before the strip is fed into the article forming unit where the articles are formed, said laser engravings forming marks on at least one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the strip.

63. (Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing articles to be included in cans, comprising:

a supply of a metal strip having an upper surface and a lower surface;

an article forming unit;

a strip feeder between the supply and the article forming unit, the strip feeder intermittently moving the strip into the article forming unit such that the strip is in an immobilized condition between periods of intermittent movement;